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June, 1952.

OFFICIALS:

Medical Officer of Health, W. C. Speirs, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector, J. V. Metcalf, M.A.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Gentlemen,

The following is my Report for the year 1951. The statistics are based on an estimated population of 2039 persons. The area of your district is 74,535 acres, or 116 square miles. The density is therefore 17.75 persons to a square mile.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1950 was ..951..... The rateable value is £ ..8,207.., and a penny rate yields £ ..31.....

The chief industries are agriculture, and the quarrying of boulder flint.

VITAL STATISTICS

	M	F	TOTAL	RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS	RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS
Live Births	7	12	19	9.31		
Legitimate	7	12	19			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Still Births	-	2	2		95.02	105.26
Legitimate	-	2	2			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Deaths under one year	-	-				
Legitimate	-	-				
Illegitimate	-	-				
Deaths	29	12	41	20.11		

Deaths from Puerperal causes:	Nil
Deaths from Cancer:	5
Deaths from Measles:	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough:	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years:	Nil

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

	M	F
Tuberculosis, Non-respiratory:	1	-
Other Infectious Disease:	1	-
Malignant Disease of Stomach:	1	-
Other malignant Disease:	4	-
Vascular Lesions of Central Nervous System:	3	4
Coronary Disease of Heart:	4	1
Other Heart Diseases:	2	1
Other Circulatory Disease:	2	4
Influenza:	1	-
Bronchitis:	3	-
Prostatic Disease:	3	-
Defined and Ill-defined Disease:	3	2
Accidental death:	1	-
Total 41. Total	29	12

Twenty-nine deaths were over 70; fifteen were more than 80 years of age; and two were more than 90 years old.

Since the introduction of the National Health Service in July, 1948, the Expectant Mothers and Nursing Mothers are attended by the nurse supplied by the North Riding County Council, and by the family doctor. Young children are attended by the same nurse, chiefly at the clinic which is held at Reeth on the first Wednesday of each month.

Domiciliary Midwifery is conducted by the nurse, and the local doctors. A great number of the women go to the Maternity Hospital at Darlington if an abnormal delivery is anticipated. If home conditions are not satisfactory they go to the Maternity Hospital at Northallerton.

The local doctors carry out vaccinations and diphtheria immunisations. Some of the latter are done at the clinic.

The nearest Ambulance Depot is at Richmond, when there are ambulances and cars for sitting cases.

The Domestic Health Service is not much used in the district.

Mental health is not administered by the Council - patients now go to Winterton near Sedgefield, which is nearer than York.

There has been no case of food poisoning in 1951.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN 1951

	M	F	Sent to Hospital
Typhoid	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	1	4
Whooping Cough	5	11	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Small Pox	-	-	-
Measles	28	25	-
Pneumonia	3	4	1
Malaria	-	-	-
Opthalmia Neo Matorum	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Total 83.	41	42	7

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	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Respectfully yours,

Wm. C. Speirs.

REETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1951.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLIES

Owing to there being no new schemes of water supply carried out during the year under review, the water supplied continues to be of a suspicious quality, due to the contamination of the sources of supply by rabbits, sheep, and cattle.

Shortages have been experienced at Keld, Gunnerside, Low Row, Healaugh, Reeth, Marrick and Grinton.

The only improvement to report is at Thwaite, where works were carried out to eliminate surface water, and a new impounding chamber constructed.

The temporary overhead main across the River Swale at Keld is still in use, as also is the temporary supply from Fremington Edge for the township of Reeth.

To serve the new Council Houses at Reeth, 386 yards of 3" spun iron pipes were laid from the existing main, four fire hydrants being provided on this length.

With regard to the proposed Regional Scheme, this has, regrettably, been held up owing to the inadequacy of the grant offered towards the cost of the scheme. Deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government resulted in an increase in the grant of £6,000, making a total of £18,000, against the contract figure (1949) of £80,000. After further consideration the Council decided that, even with the increase in the grant and a similar contribution from the County, the burden upon the rates would be too heavy. At a further deputation to the Ministry, smaller schemes were put forward as being sufficient to meet the needs of the district. It was also suggested that, should the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries press for the Regional Scheme, in order to meet the needs of Agriculture, that Ministry should meet the additional cost involved, as compared with the cost of the smaller schemes - some £45,000. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Officers at the meeting agreed to take the matter up direct with the Ministry of Agriculture, and also to send an Engineer to Reeth to examine the proposals of the smaller schemes.

In conclusion, when considering water supplies for the district, it should be borne in mind:

(1) that it is a duty imposed by Statute on a Local Authority to provide a supply of wholesome water in pipes to every part of their district in which there are houses and schools;

(2) that the existing supplies are, on present-day standards, inadequate, for the most part having been provided to meet the needs of houses without baths and W.Cs;

(3) that new sources of supply must be brought into use, and that whatever schemes are embarked upon will involve considerable expenditure and the consequent levying of a General Water Rate. This is unavoidable if there is to be any progress.

(4) that any schemes embarked upon must have the prior approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, which approval can only be obtained when the Ministry are satisfied the scheme is a good one. This is not a matter of so-called "red tape," but to ensure that any monies spent on schemes is money well spent. This is, of course, in the long run, advantageous to the interests of the district.

SEWERAGE

No new schemes for the sewering of villages have been embarked upon during the year, these being consequent on adequate water supplies being available.

To serve the new Council houses at Reeth, 300 yards of 6" sewer were laid to connect to the existing system.

ACCOMMODATION

Conversion to Water Closets:	3
Additional W.Cs. to existing houses:	2
New W.Cs. on conversion and improvements:	10
Private septic tanks and filters:	2
Private cesspools:	8
Drains tested - number of yards:	396

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The service by direct labour, using motor transport, was extended during the year to cover every village and hamlet throughout the area, mostly by a weekly collection. All farms in the district having a suitable road for motor transport were also included, the most outlying by monthly collection.

The Refuse Tips at Feetham Wood, Ellerton Moor, and Low Level continue to be used. The manner in which these tips have been kept by your employees, Messrs. Barningham & Whitehead, is commendable. Mention must also be made of the efficient and careful maintenance of the collection vehicle by the driver, Mr. Barningham.

At the latter end of the year, a waste-paper collection scheme was put into operation, a building for the storage of paper, and also a trailer, were kindly put at the disposal of the scheme by Councillor F. N. Brown.

HOUSING

The contract for the building of twelve houses at Reeth was commenced during April, and on which good progress was made up to the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1949. Only one application was received for an improvement grant under the provisions of this Act. The application was not approved, the Council not being satisfied that the house in question had a life of 30 years.

Improvement to existing houses, without grant aid, resulted in 9 new bathrooms; 5 new washouses and sculleries; 4 new kitchens and 10 new W.Cs.

Four licences were granted for the building of private houses.

SCHOOLS

Water supplies to schools in the area, with the exception of Reeth and Arkengarthdale, are supplied from Council mains.

Cooking arrangements at the schools are carried out in a satisfactory manner.

With reference to the dry closet accommodation at Gunnerside School, it is pleasing to note that the County Education Committee have requested tenders for the installation of the water carriage system.

FOOD INSPECTION

Only small quantities of bacon and tinned foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption at retail food shops.

RODENT CONTROL

Although there were no "major infestations" during the year, a good number of isolated infestations at houses and piggeries were dealt with. Treatment of sewage works and refuse tips has also been carried out. Satisfactory results were obtained by pre-baiting, followed by the use of Zinc Phosphide.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

A tender from G. Brown, Low Row, of £650, was provisionally accepted for the proposed conveniences at Keld, but, owing to shortages of water at this village, it was considered advisable not to proceed with the work for the present.

FACTORIES

Routine inspections of the factories in the area during the year revealed no defects of note.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only:	41
Number in hand at end of previous year:	3
Number needing abatement:	32
Number abated:	27
Number outstanding at end of year:	5
Number of informal notices served:	4
Number of notices complied with:	4
Number of statutory notices served:	Nil

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There were no congregations of these structures during the year. Individual caravans in the area have been well conducted.

Number of inspections made during the year: 27

BUILDING LICENSING

Licences issued during the year have been confined to essential works only, to include improvements and alterations to houses, new bathrooms and W.Cs., etc.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Complaints investigated:	25
Drain testing:	125
Nuisance inspections:	41
Bakeries:	26
Ice Cream Manufacturers:	31
Food premises:	44
Catering establishments & Licensed premises:	26
Factories:	22
Housing (miscellaneous):	117
Shops Act:	36
Rodent control:	55
Building bye-laws (work in progress):	73
Building licensing:	56
Private water supplies:	37
Council water supplies:	63
Council sewage works:	22
Refuse tips:	17
Infectious diseases:	8

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) a. Total number of houses inspected during the year for housing defects. (Under Public Health or Housing Acts): 69

b. Number of inspections made for the purpose: 117

(2) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation: nil

(3) Number of houses (exclusing of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation: 41

II REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers: 34

III ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

a. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: nil

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: nil

b. Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: nil

c. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: nil

(1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made: nil

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders: nil

d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined: nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being made fit: nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV: OVERCROWDING

a. (1) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year: nil

(11) Number of families dwelling therein nil

b. (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: nil

(11) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: nil

c. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after local authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: nil

d. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report: nil